CLAIMS

1. DNA comprising a nucleotide sequence of a mutated *TipA* gene promoter where a mutation is introduced into a -10 region sequence of a *TipA* gene promoter, the mutated *TipA* gene promoter being capable of thiostrepton-independent and constitutive expression of a gene located downstream thereof.

2. The DNA according to claim 1, wherein the mutation in the -10 region sequence is a mutation of a CAGCGT sequence to a TATAAT sequence.

3. The DNA according to claim 2, having a nucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 107.

4. A constitutive expression vector for a bacterium belonging to the genus *Rhodococcus* comprising: a promoter sequence for the constitutive expression of a foreign gene, the promoter sequence being a nucleotide sequence of DNA according to any one of claims 1 to 3; a ribosome-binding site sequence located downstream of the promoter sequence; and a multiple-cloning site sequence capable of incorporating a foreign gene therein, located downstream of the ribosome-binding site sequence.

5. The constitutive expression vector for a bacterium belonging to the genus *Rhodococcus* according to claim 4, wherein the vector is selected from the group consisting of pNit-RT1 having a nucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 101, pNit-RT2 having a nucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 102, pNit-RC1 having a nucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 105, pNit-RC2 having a nucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 106, pNit-QT1 having a nucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 99, pNit-QT2 having a nucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 100, pNit-QC1 having a nucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 103, and pNit-QC2 having a nucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 104.

6. The expression vector according to claim 4 or 5, wherein the bacterium belonging to the genus *Rhodococcus* is selected from the group consisting of *R. erythropolis*, *R. fascians*, and *R. opacus*.

7. The expression vector according to any one of claims 4 to 6, wherein the vector further comprises a DNA region necessary for the autonomous replication of a plasmid for *Escherichia coli*, and is capable of replication in *Escherichia coli*.

8. A transformant comprising an expression vector according to any one of claims 4 to 7.

9. A method of producing a recombinant protein at a temperature ranging from 4°C to 35°C by using an expression vector according to any one of claims 4 to 7 to.